

# What's New in the MPDC

SEPTEMBER 24, 2001

## MPDC URGES PUBLIC VILIGANCE AND COOPERATION ON BOMB THREATS, SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES

\*\*\*\*\*

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon, the MPDC has received and responded to a higher than usual number of bomb threats and reports of suspicious packages. Whereas in a typical week, the MPDC may receive a half dozen or so such reports, in the week immediately following the attacks, there were nearly 50 bomb threats and more than 100 suspicious package reports. In the case of suspicious packages, Chief Ramsey this week applauded the community for being vigilant in identifying and reporting these incidents – all (fortunately) turned out to be negative reports. The Department also cautioned citizens not to take any direct action with suspicious packages, but to immediately call 3-1-1 (the police non-emergency number). Also, the MPDC is asking for the public's cooperation in following the instructions of police personnel on the scene of these types of reports. While many people are curious, Explosive Ordnance members must be able to carry out their jobs without disruption and with the public's safety in mind. For more information, read the public advisory at:

*Making false bomb threats is a serious crime that threatens public safety by diverting police resources from where they may be needed. The MPDC will take immediate action against all violators. If you have information about individuals making false reports of this type, please call 9-1-1 (if the false report has just occurred) or the MPDC Intelligence Section at 724-1424.*

[mpdc.dc.gov](http://mpdc.dc.gov) (Click on News Room)

## MPDC WORKING TO KEEP PUBLIC INFORMED ABOUT ONGOING STREET CLOSINGS

\*\*\*\*\*

*After being temporarily suspended following the MPDC mobilization in response to the terrorist attacks, the District's photo radar speeding reduction program resumed this past week. Learn more about this innovative traffic safety program at: [mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtm)*

In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, several streets around the White House, the US Capitol and other government facilities have been closed for various times. The MPDC is working to stay on top of these street closures and make them known to the public through our Website. The public should also be aware that enhanced security around military installations is having an impact on traffic. Backups have occurred during the morning rush hour on I-295 near Bolling Air Force Base and on Georgia Avenue,

NW, outside the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The MPDC is working with the District Division of Transportation to provide warning signs and enhanced traffic control in these areas. Individuals who work at these facilities are being encouraged to have their identifications ready, so as to speed up the process. Other drivers are being asked to consider alternative routes. Get ongoing street closure and DDOT road project information by going to:

[mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/streetclosures.shtm](http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/streetclosures.shtm)

## MPDC WARNS RESIDENTS AGAINST FRAUDULENT CHARITY APPEALS

\*\*\*\*\*

In the wake of the tragic events at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, many charitable organizations are launching campaigns to help victims and their families. At the same time, the MPDC, the Better Business Bureau and others are warning potential donors against fraudulent appeals that seek to use this national tragedy to take advantage of the concern and generosity of DC residents and other Americans. Whatever the age of the group, the BBB advises that appeals should clearly describe the specific services the charity intends to provide; watch out for appeals that are heavy on emotion but light on substance. Even newly established charities should have written material available describing their programs, anticipated expenditures, and how they will carry out activities; donors should ask for these materials, especially if they are in doubt. Donors are advised to check out charities by contacting the Better Business Bureau or your local charity registration office (in DC, the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, at 442-4400). For more information, visit the BBB Wise Giving Alliance at:

*Individuals who feel they have been approached or victimized by a fraudulent charity in DC should contact the MPDC's Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit at 727-4159.*

[www.give.org](http://www.give.org)

## MPDC REVISED MEDICAL SCREENING POLICY FOR RECRUIT OFFICER CANDIDATES

\*\*\*\*\*

*The MPDC continues to seek officer candidates through both the recruit and lateral-hiring processes. Learn how you can "be a part of something special":*

[mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtml](http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/officer.shtml)

Mayor Williams announced this week that he has instructed the MPDC (as well as the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department) to revise their long-standing medical screening policy for applicants seeking to join these departments. Under the revised policy, physical examinations will no longer include pregnancy tests for women. All applicants who successfully complete the application process, including the other aspects of the physical examination, will be appointed in the normal hiring process. All successful applicants will be advised of the rigorous physical demands of the job during training and probation and throughout their employment. If an individual's physical condition temporarily prevents the candidate or employee from performing the necessary duties during the probationary period, the individual's needs will be accommodated and the probation period will be extended as necessary, the Mayor announced. Read the complete statement at:

[dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=239](http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=239)

\*\*\*\*\*

*Information, ideas or comments about this service?*

*E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at [kevin.morison@dc.gov](mailto:kevin.morison@dc.gov).*

*Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com).*

**METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE**  
**MPDC.DC.GOV**